WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Help to drought-hit regions

3352. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bail out drought-hit Rajasthan and other similarly placed regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position of Orissa where some of the districts are facing drought like situation indicating the action plan of Government to help out this poverty stricken State as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Rajasthan has not so far reported drought after South-West Monsoon. Jharkhand has declared drought in all 22 districts in the State. In response to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Jharkharnd seeking Central assistance for drought relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team is visiting the State for assessment of the situation. First instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2005-06 amounting to Rs. 47.28 crores has been released to Jharkhand.

(c) Orissa State has not reported drought this year.

Advisory to Andhra Pradesh for Cropping Pattern

3353. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment have sent an Advisory to Andhra Pradesh Government to change the cropping pattern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Government to this suggestions;

(d) whether more emphasis will be given to diversification of crops; and

(e) the details of extent of funding that will be given to the State to implement this Advisory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) Diversification of crops is taken up under wells/pore wells areas in place of paddy to crops like maize, jowar, pulses, groundnut and sesamum.

(e) Question does not arise.

Crop diversification project of Maharashtra

3354. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a crop diversification project, in view of droughts and crop failures, year after year for 3-4 consecutive years, and the distress sales and suicides resorted to by farmers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the crop diversification plan; and

(c) the Central Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The Governent of Maharashtra has not submitted proposal on crop diversification to Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system

3355. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate total irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system and the steps being taken to increase it;